

MARTINE BALLINGER-Safety 279, Crew 765, Art Auctioneer, Works for the concessionaire but reports to the hotel director. Has been in the cruise industry 12 years, cabin is B-20.

She was in bed at the time, felt the bed shake, heard a bang. She looked out the window and didn't see anything. The electricity went out. She heard a Code Alpha in her cabin. She got dressed and grabbed her coffee mug and headed up to her muster station on the International Deck, via passenger staircase No. 1. At the time the low location lights were on, and it took her a "good five minutes" to get upstairs. She heard an Alpha code in the main galley, then heard a Code Bravo, and then she heard the 7 short 1 long blast.

On the way to the Muster Station she went to the credit office to get her muster list. She went to her station, No. 17 and she waited for the passengers on her list to start arriving. At the beginning two passengers and several crewmembers were missing. A first officer came by several times to determine whether all of the passengers and crew were accounted for. She had 109 passengers, and was missing 8 to 9 crew. By 0810 they could see fire trucks.

The passengers remained calm and she said that everything was safe, clear and fine. She was impressed with the response of the crew. The announcements from the bridge were sporadic but sufficient to calm everyone. They were not every 10 minutes, but they were enough to keep people informed. The Captain made an announcement that all passengers were to go ashore immediately, around 0810. At that time she realized how serious this was. Passengers were directed to Norway deck to leave from three gangways. She did not have a walkie-talkie at her station, and she communicated with the bridge via runners, who would take her notes regarding missing passengers and crew to the bridge.

The passengers exited the ship via 3 gangways that were open on the Norway deck. She and her crew remained at the stations, while the passengers were dismissed and left on their own.

She remained in the area to clean up flotation devices and life jackets and all crew were directed to the theater.

There crew roll was taken and the captain gave a short talk on what happened. He said that there had been a small explosion but that everything was OK now.

She has received basic training with NCL and on the job training with NCL. She also received training from Renaissance.